



Habersham County Historical Society, Inc.

November, 2011

Dear friends and members,

I've just come in from outside, reveling in a beautiful fall afternoon. The leaves on the trees have turned magnificent colors, the temperature is just cool enough to be pleasant, and the birds and the squirrels are active in the woods down by our creek. Tonight, I know that deer and raccoons will make the woods their own. Habersham County is truly blessed with terrific scenery, great weather, wonderful people, and a quality of life second to none.

One of the things that makes Habersham County great is its history. Our heritage goes back to the Native Americans who roamed the Hills of Habersham long before the Europeans came. It includes adventurous traders who came from the Carolinas, and later Savannah and Augusta, during Colonial days. There were the first pioneers, many of them Revolutionary War veterans and their families, who settled the land early in the 19th Century.

Our county's history is peopled with heroes of the Revolution and all of our Nation's subsequent wars, right up the present. Many veterans of World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, and most recently the wars in Iran and Afghanistan still live here and are able to share their stories.

History isn't all about war, though. Our history is also about the men and women who farmed and made agriculture a way to make a living. It's about the people who built the businesses and towns that made life here sustainable. It's about railroads that brought people here. And it's about visitors attracted by Habersham's charms. Many of those visitors came and wanted to stay, like Kimberly and I did.

Why is our history important? Quite simply because the past points the way to the future. To understand where we are and where we're going, we need to understand the past, and to learn from our heritage. To quote historian David McCullough: "History is who we are and why we are the way we are."

There are other organizations that focus on some particular aspect of the county's history, and they all do an excellent job of highlighting their areas of interest. The Habersham County Historical Society is the only organization whose mission encompasses *all* of Habersham County's history. For this reason, the Society is a resource that needs to be maintained and preserved.

As you know, the Society owns the historic Ivie Building in downtown Cornelia. The building houses the Society's collection of historic artifacts, documents, and artwork; including but not limited to the Standard Telephone Museum. It is important that our collection have a home ---these items must be preserved.

Like many other people and organizations, we have suffered economic hardships during the last few years. We lost our main source of revenue when our long-term tenant upstairs moved out in April 2008. A

228 North Main St/ P.O. Box 924/ Cornelia, GA 30531

A Membership Supported 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization Taxpayer ID # 58-2171650

subsequent tenant proved to be unreliable, and we had to evict him. Like many other potential rental properties, our upstairs sits vacant. Our income is insufficient to meet the cost of owning the Ivie Building.

Generous individual contributions have allowed us to survive for the past couple of years. However, our most recent financial report reveals that our treasury has barely enough to cover bills that we have in hand or can expect within the next couple of months. Quite frankly, the situation is on the verge of desperate.

A membership form for 2012 accompanies this letter. Our membership dues are miniscule when compared to the cost of owning and maintaining the Ivie Building. We strongly urge you to make a contribution in addition to joining or renewing your membership for 2012. The Society needs it, and contributions are tax deductible.

And I hope that you'll take advantage of the excellent programs at our monthly meetings. This year we've had a number of fine programs: Audrey Davenport discussed the Black History exhibit at the Cornelia Depot, Tom Partington shared some of his experiences as a CIA agent, and Lynn Cash and Bill Raper of the SAR gave a presentation on Revolutionary War history and displayed artifacts from the era. Alan NeSmith talked about The Northeast Georgian and the newspaper's publication of historical photographs from Habersham County, and Fred Holbrook showed and discussed some items from his collection of telephone artifacts. In September, Ronnie Parham spoke and showed memorabilia from the old South Habersham High School. Lynn McCollum and Beryle Martin told us about their efforts to preserve the record of tombstones in old and abandoned cemeteries, then Lynn and friends blessed us with a concert of dulcimer music. For November, our own Margie Mosavi will share pictures and stories of her and Reza's recent travels in contemporary Russia.

The dulcimer players will be back to provide music at the Society's Christmas dinner, Thursday, December 8, at 6 p.m. I hope you can be there to enjoy good music, good food, and good fellowship.

This year, we've started opening the museum on a regular basis on the first Saturday of each month, from 11 to 2. This is a small step, but it's important to make our collection more accessible to the public. Also, we're doing a better job of updating our web page and Facebook presence. Check out the web page at www.habershamhistoricalsociety.org.

I firmly believe that the Habersham County Historical Society has an important place in our county. The Society needs your participation and support.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Ed Brown, President



Habersham County Historical Society

www.habershamhistoricalsociety.org

**P.O. Box 924
228 North Main Street
Cornelia, Georgia 30531**

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

County _____

State _____

Telephone Number _____ e-mail address _____

What aspect of Habersham County history are you interested in?

What presentations would you like to see?

Membership: Renewal or new?

Membership type

Individual:	\$15
Family	\$25
Teacher/Student	\$10
Business/organization	\$40
Individual Lifetime	\$100